

## January President's Newsletter

Here we are in 2016. Sliced drives, hooked drives, chunked wedges, pulled putts, pushed putts, fat 9 nine irons, shanked mid irons, sculled bunker shots, spilled coffee on the pants...all of that's in the past. For the 153 members who make up our 2016 roster this year is going to be nothing but fairways and greens. Hey, every president is said to tell at least one lie. I thought I'd tell mine right out of the shoot. But really, we've got a whole new year to celebrate playing golf. How good is that?

The end of 2015 was very good for the winners of the Holiday Tournament, our last tournament of the year. The grand prize went to the team of Lance Borden, Ken Norcross, Moe Davidowitz and Rob Wheeler, who smoked the field with a net score of 120. Second went to the team of Duane Barringer, Joe Rutherford, Ray Dorfman and Brian White with a score of 124. Rob and Brian only joined TLQMC a couple of months ago and I'm sure they're glad they did. Check our website for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> finishers. There is no rest in January as we have The Presidents Cup, our only match play event coming up on January 4<sup>th</sup>. The Couples Club Championship follows that on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Our Tournament Chair Ed Warman ([ed\\_warman@outlook.com](mailto:ed_warman@outlook.com)) informed me the field is full for the Presidents Cup but he is taking names for a wait list to fill cancellations. He will be taking applications soon for the Couples Championship.

As you probably know the R&A and USGA have published the 2016 edition of the Rules of Golf and the Handicap System Manual which will take effect on January 1, 2016. The SCGA will adopt and follow these rules, as will TLQMC. Our rules committee (Alan Barroll, Greg Henry, Roland Dell & Bill Smith) and Handicap Chair, Ken Smooke, will help us with these rules throughout the year, however there is one new rule and one change in the handicapping system which I will comment on here. Rule 14-1b prohibits the anchoring of a club while making a stroke. This applies to all clubs but the putter is the club most commonly anchored. Very few of our members use the long putter however the agony caused by a faulty putter always has us looking for the magic bullet. So if you were thinking of the long putter helping your game, you need to familiarize yourself with his new rule. The penalty for anchoring is the loss of hole in match play and 2 strokes in stroke play for each violation. More importantly if the player doesn't take the penalty his score would not have been played under the Rules of Golf and not be acceptable for posting. The key change in the Handicap System is that a round played alone is also not acceptable for posting. To be accepted a round must be witnessed by a playing partner or a caddy. Our Webmaster, Joe Rutherford, has posted links from the USGA website on the home page of our website that explain the anchoring issues with photos and comments and defines the posting change. Take a look, they are very informative.

Being aware of the above changes in the rules and processes of the game are examples of what we as players and members can and should do to promote the integrity of our game. The one thing that has an equal and lasting impact on the game as playing by the rules is our posting practices. We've all kidded our fellow golfers by calling them sandbaggers and ribbed them about a vanity handicap. However our only defense against allowing these practices to negatively affect our club is for all of us to post accurate scores for every round. To that end your board is asking that you diligently turn in your signed cards and post every round either in the Pro Shop or on line. There is a box by the Pro Shop computer for the

cards. Be sure to put the date plus first and last names on all cards. Also, Ken is working with Miguel at the Pro Shop on a process that will allow him to randomly compare the rounds played by our members with the rounds they've posted and the cards they've turned in. This is not Big Brother. It is the process of Peer Review that all of us, as the stewards of the game, must follow to protect ourselves from our own egos.

That's about it from me for now. All that's left to say is that I hope that all of you feel as I do about the coming year and this game we play. Golf may be frustrating, it may be maddening, in fact it's insane...it's the game we love to hate...but play as much as we can!

I thank you all for the privilege of being your president and playing golf as part of such a great club.

Pat